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Hongkong Daily Press.

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Casks of 375 lbs. net \$4.75 per Cask ex Factory.

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Hongkong, 14th August, 1903.

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We are Sole Agents for the following:
MONOPOL, FUTURE, CEMILUX, and
NEW PREMIER CYCLES. Best American
Machines in the Market, always on View and
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MOTOR CYCLES, MAIL CARTS,
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WATER to the Shipping, both for Deck and
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Premises lot at \$40 a month, inclusive of taxes.
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For fine Toilet Things—can be gratified from our elegant stock of Perfumes, Toilet Waters,
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else that goes to make up the necessities and luxuries of the Toilet. Come right here whenever
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Hongkong, 10th May, 1904.

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ESTABLISHED IN LONDON IN 1815.

SHIPPERS TO CHINA FOR 75 YEARS.

Their Brands are favourably known all over the World.

The following are some of their Stocks with the undersigned:—

SUPERB OLD COGNAC,

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Less old than the above.

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Hongkong, 11th May, 1904.

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A N English Speaking Chinese Gentleman

is willing to accompany European or

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private SECRETARY and INTERPRETER

at moderate terms. Best reference.

Apply to—

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Hongkong, 16th May, 1904.

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TERMS VERY MODERATE.

Consultation Free.

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REPAIR WORK to Steamers and

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Modern charges. Work solicited.

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Manager.

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PLATED GLASS AND CROCKERY

WARE, &c., &c.; and FOCHOW

LACQUERED WARE.

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AT 14, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

WHERE you will find for sale at

moderate prices, GOOD AMERICAN

NOVELS, CIGARS, CIGARETTES, and

TOBACCO, POST CARDS of the Russo-

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SAYCE & CO.

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1236

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A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL IN EVERY RESPECT

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Private Bar and Two Billiard Rooms for

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Dining Accommodation for 300 persons.

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Ladies' Afternoon Tea Rooms with European

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Hot and Cold Water throughout.

Wines and Groceries specially imported by

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Wines cooled by Hotel refrigerators.

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Fire Extinguishing Mains and Emergency

Exits on every floor.

MODERATE CHARGES! NO EXTRAS!

H. HAYNES,

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PEAK HOTEL.

Admirably Situated. Sheltered from the

North-East Monsoon and Open to the South

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A COVERED GANGWAY LEADS

FROM THE TRAMWAY TERMINUS

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WATERS

IN THE FAR EAST.

AERATED WATERS of our manufacture made under constant European expert supervision are sold throughout the Far East and are invariably preferred on account of their excellence.

THE MACHINERY in use embodies every improvement known up to date.

ABSOLUTE PURITY is guaranteed. THE BEST MATERIALS only are used.

THE PRICES are only half those charged in England.

WATERS MANUFACTURED BY US are acknowledged by the leading English makers to be equal to those of their own production.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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Only communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR. Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only. No anonymously signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted. Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash. Telegraphic Address: Press. Codes: A.B.C. 6th Ed. Lube's. P.O. Box, 33. Telephone No. 12.

MARRIAGES

On the 11th April, at Durban, F. W. MITCHELL, son of late F. W. Mitchell, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to AMY SQUIRE.
On the 10th May, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. A. J. Walker, A. L. MAUDER, son of Sherbrooke, Canada, to M. D. J. BRADY, Tientsin.

DEATH

On the 8th April, at 67, S. Helen's Road, Hastings, JANE B. BROADBENT (nee Bliss), wife of JAMES F. BROADBENT.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VOGES ROAD 31.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 17TH MAY, 1904.

WHATSOEVER we may think of the rights and wrongs of the present conflict in the Far East, in one respect the various nations in Europe must look upon it as a blessing, even if one in disguise. Till the actual outbreak of the war it was held by most of the European authorities that, hostilities having once broken out between Russia and Japan, the interests involved were of so complicated a nature that they could not be confined to the limits of the Far East, but almost of necessity would kindle the torch of baleful war throughout the plains of Continental Europe itself. The fear and the dread of Russia, which, like the strange fascination said to proceed from the serpent's eyes when pursuing his feathered prey, has been the ruling factor in Continental politics for the last quarter of a century, has apparently shown some symptoms of diminishing virulence, and a disposition to look on things as they really are has been conspicuous during the last few weeks. The altered position of affairs is well shown in the very different manner in which the disorders in the Balkan regions are being treated. At the beginning of the year the strange sight was witnessed of Russia and Austro-Hungary in apparent concord uniting to settle, by force of arms if necessary, the discord prevailing in Bul-

garia and Macedonia. It was known to everyone that the main instigator of these troubles was Russia herself. It was also perfectly well known that the German Government, though solemnly talking in difference, was inwardly licking its chops at the distant prospect of blood. More than all this it was known that the quarrel really aimed at by these two benevolent Powers was nothing less than the partition of their mutual friend and ally, Austria. The unnatural pact between the two States, Russia and Austro-Hungary, it was felt by all, was only undertaken by the latter Power in the interests of self-preservation; yet of all this intrigue with its various plots and counterplots, the diplomatic world was by a fiction supposed to be entirely ignorant. Ambassadors nodded and embraced, monarchs paid professional visits and spoke of the harmonies; wars and their possibilities were subjects too vulgar to be discussed by the polite. The game of whist or casino went on apparently as merrily as if the parties were seated in the quiet shades of Paradise; yet after all the mail-clad spectre of war would obtrude itself unasked into the quietest groves of the pretended Elysium, and sometimes, even to the careless players themselves, strange visions of the yawning gulf beneath would unfold themselves.

Now we do not intend to flatter our readers, nor ourselves, by the assertion that all this unrest and carefulness was but the baseless fabric of a dream; for while it lasted it was very real indeed, none the less real that it had never been formulated. When, some three years ago, without any apparent remembrance from the British Government, approaches commenced to be made between the French and Italian Governments on the basis of both being Latin Powers, prophets of ill were not wanting who saw in the movement a direct menace to British interests, especially in the Mediterranean; better informed, the Government was content to stand by and wait developments. The rapprochement was really at the time rather instinctive than deliberately planned; without exactly recognising the cause, both Powers felt that the position was becoming explosive, and both probably felt that their momentary allies had other schemes in hand than were quite consistent with their professions of disinterestedness. This feeling it was that gradually led France to review her recent attitude towards England. England, it was true, had all along professed her desire to be on more neighbourly terms with France; but so had Germany and Russia. Certain little circumstances had lately come to light of Germany's peculiar methods of aiding her allies, more especially Prince Bismarck's secret understanding with Russia about a possible partition of Austria; then her nominal ally, France, any more than England and Italy, could not but see in these flirtations a source of embarrassment, if not danger to herself, and the suspicions aroused were certainly not diminished when she saw Russia, her own special ally, without consulting her, entering into schemes for settling the ever vexed Balkan tangle. When, therefore, it was unofficially suggested to France that some means could possibly be found for settling some long outstanding disputes with England in which neither party was very deeply interested, and which both had at various times acknowledged were subjects on which either, without affecting their interests or prestige, could give way, France found that the psychic moment had arrived. The time was opportune, and both sides yielding a little, an understanding eminently satisfactory to both was soon arrived at, and the long outstanding grievances were quickly removed, and in Lord ROSEBERY'S words, both commenced with a clean slate.

Meanwhile Russia had been pushing her pretensions in the Far East in such a manner and with such language that the Western Powers most interested in the great Eastern trade could not fail to see a challenge; and this feeling of uneasiness was doubled by the evident acquiescence of Germany, who, under pretence of an indifference entirely contrary to her usual practice, professed not to see any danger in the advances of Russia, which had within the last two years entirely altered the relations towards Europe of Eastern Asia. It is certain that, from whatever cause, the Imperial family of Germany are under some curious spell in their relations with Russia; we would scarcely like to stigmatise it as fear, but to all outward appearance it very much resembles it. If not fear, the spell must of course proceed from some equally unworthy source. On either supposition we may account for the very marked change that has come over the scene since the morning of the 10th February last. If the

feeling were attributable to fear, the events of the last three months have shown how slender was its foundation; if to other causes, the progress of events proves how little useful would be Russia's assistance were Germany to be brought into hostile contact with the other Continental Powers. Fortunately both these conditions make for peace. Germany, now that she has driven the other Continental Powers into the arms of England, is little likely of herself to seek a ground of quarrel, while Russia has shown such extreme unpreparedness in her fight with Japan that she is hardly likely to be accepted by the other as an eligible ally in her ambitions towards the empire of the world.

Lord Curzon left Bombay for England on the 10th ult. on the P. & O. s.s. *Arabia*.

The Rev. A. B. Walker has been inducted into the chaplaincy of the Shanghai Cathedral, by Bishop Moule.

The Hongkong and Macao Steamboat Co.'s *Futshan* has gone into dock at Kowloon for overhaul.

President Roosevelt is said to be introducing Japanese wrestling (or is it *Jigitsu*?) into the U.S. Naval Academy athletic exercises.

On Sunday the golfers of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank beat Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s representatives by one match.

In the Lawn Tennis professional pairs yesterday Dr. Atkinson and Mr. T. Sercombe Smith beat Messrs. Grist and Davis by 3 sets to 2.

The ladies of the Diplomatic circle at Peking were received in audience by the Empress Dowager on the 10th inst. and entertained at an Imperial banquet.

Visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum during week ended the 15th inst. were:—Library, 94 Chinese, 225 non-Chinese; Museum, 1,616 Chinese, 88 non-Chinese.

The Harbour Master at Swatow announces that the masts of the wreck of a sunken junk off Cupchi Point have been removed. There is 14 fathoms at low-water spring tides over the wreck.

Up to 9th April there had been seventy-two deaths from plague in the Transvaal. Only seven of the victims were whites. In Egypt, there had been 163 deaths from plague between January 20 and April 2 of this year.

The death is announced of Captain Andrew Sherwell Busk, President of the Singapore Merchant Service Guild, and a well-known figure in seafaring circles at Singapore. A blood vessel in his brain was ruptured, causing partial paralysis, and he died within a week.

Japan has placed large orders both in England and on the Continent for material for construction of torpedo-boats. The material is to be delivered with the utmost possible despatch. One British firm alone is said to have received an order for material for the building of ten destroyers.

According to a *Gratz* newspaper, the Japanese Military *Attache* in Vienna is negotiating with Prince Odescandi, acting on behalf of the Fratelli Syndicate, formerly the Austro-American Steamship Company, for charter or purchase of nearly the whole of the Syndicate's fleet for the transport of Hungarian horses to Japan.

Prince Hugo Hohenlohe married Mrs. Helga, the famous circus rider, in Berlin last month. Prince Hugo, says the *Express* correspondent, will forfeit his princely rank, and will now bear the title of Count von Hornesberg. Another Prince Hohenlohe married a Viennese actress some years ago.

The *Gazzetta d'Italia* states that the Pope has instituted an Apostolic Prefecture in the Island of Shikoku, Japan. This much we have already heard. But it also appears that the new Prefecture will be the abode of the Dominican monks from the Philippines, who have had to leave the islands as a result of the agreement between the United States and the Holy See.

The *Peking Gazette* understands with reference to the demand for Chinese to emigrate to the Transvaal, that the Straits Government is considerably exercised over the prospect of a drain being put on what is even now a far from adequate supply of labour for the Colony and the Federated Malay States. It is said that the Singapore authorities have been asked to expend a large sum on providing free passages.

The *Nganfutu* (Huphe) correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* writes:—We hear that there has been an attack upon a Russian priest at a town some hundred miles from here, near Hankow. The feeling against the Russians is very strong, hence this attack on the Russian missionary. The whole of his effects are said to have been destroyed and his house pulled down. A weinman is said to have been sent up to institute an enquiry.

A S. Petersburg wire dated the 14th ult. states that an explosion of dynamite, believed to have been caused by an Anarchist, occurred at midnight on the 13th, in a room at the Hotel du Nord, occupied by General Kazarkoff's son, who was killed. A S. Petersburg correspondent, who visited the hotel, found the place occupied by the police, but from the outside it was possible to see that four windows had been destroyed and the wall blackened. Occurring in the midst of the consternation caused by the naval disasters, the incident created considerable alarm in the Russian capital.

Seven fatal Chinese plague were reported up to noon yesterday, bringing the year's total to 107.

In the arbitration case between Japan and Great Britain, France, and Germany, on the honso tax question in Japan, the Arbitration Court will give its decision only on documents, which will be communicated this month. The award will be announced at a public sitting of the Court.

The two Japanese executed at Harbin for trying to destroy a bridge were not army officers at all, but they were patriots, says a Japanese paper. Yokokawa Seizo was an adventurous *scholar*, and Oki Teisaku was a teacher of Japanese at Peking, who joined the "Red-beards" at the beginning of the war.

It appears that the Empress Dowager of China recently sat to a Japanese photographer. She is said to have given permission to sell her photographs to the public. Her Majesty has been led to do so by hearing the wife of a certain foreign Minister say that the Emperors and Kings of Europe allow their photographs to be sold to their subjects, who always place their sovereigns' portraits in the most honoured position in the household.

Besides the large cavalry and artillery force that had been sent by Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai to reinforce the troops holding the neutral region on the western banks of the Ili river, an official despatch quoted by the *N.C. Daily News* states that Viceroy Yuan has followed up the above force with two more infantry brigades, namely, General Wu Yuan-kai with 2,400 men. The last named officer is a noted ex-Nienfei chief and a dashing cavalry leader.

On the 11th ult. the notorious Stead was entertained at a gathering of Dutch citizens, and presented with an address, in which he was described as the noblest type of Englishman since Gladstone. Stead, in the course of his reply, proclaimed himself to be "the staunchest Imperialist." He eulogised the Boers for "conserving the new century with the martyr blood of a patriot people." He also made references to an early fusion of the white races in South Africa, but these were received with cries of "Rats!" The general opinion was that Stead, through his ignorance of local conditions, is accentuating existing differences. Most of the newspapers ignored his presence on the Rand.

The Recorder of Bournemouth, Mr. R. A. Kinglake, has a new and distinctly novel grievance against aliens. They deprived him of a pair of white gloves. Charging the grand jury at the Quarter Sessions the Recorder said that every single prisoner on the calendar bore a foreign name, and but for them he might have received a pair of gloves from the mayor. The offences, he added, were of a serious character. The time of the magistrates at the metropolitan police courts was considerably occupied in dealing with cases of foreigners. That was constantly the case, and so long as they allowed the sweepings and the scum of foreign countries to be imported into this country that kind of thing would go on.

The *Naval and Military Record* says:—The French have not been slow to draw lessons from the war in the Far East. Tashima, the island between Japan and Korea, occupies something of the same position to Port Arthur and Vladivostok that Gibraltar does to Brest and Toulon. Owing to the defences, fixed and mobile, of this island, the Russians cannot join up their naval forces. In France, it is pointed out that in case of war the British Channel squadron would get astride the Straits of Gibraltar, and France would be in the position that Russia is in to-day, only more so, for the Tashima Straits are much broader than the distance from the Rock to Ceuta. It is argued that since, in almost any contingency, the aim would be to amalgamate the Northern and Mediterranean squadrons, it is a mistake to maintain their identity until war actually occurs. "Why not send the Northern squadron into the Mediterranean?" it is asked. "Then there would be in the Midland Sea a force of great power, instead of two weak squadrons cut off from each other in a most dangerous manner." Such a change in the disposition of the ships forming the two main squadrons of the French Navy would considerably affect the plans of the British Admiralty, and upset a good many calculations. But the reform is not likely to be carried out, for the simple reason that the population on the Atlantic and Channel coasts would not sit quietly by while they were thus robbed of the evidences of naval defence; and, secondly, because such a change would be impossible on account of Dockyard accommodation. Furthermore, in view of the growth of the German Navy, Frenchmen would not permit all their heavy ships to be withdrawn from the Channel.

MERCANTILE MARINE CLUB.

A meeting of Mercantile Marine officers sailing out of Hongkong has been held in the Connaught Hotel, and as a result it has been decided to form a club. A club-room has been engaged in the Connaught Hotel for a period of three months, and if the movement meets with success there will be permanent quarters established. The name of the club is the *Marine Officers' Association*. It will fill a long standing want in shipping circles in Hongkong and the China coast. The rooms will be opened on the 1st June. On the 5th of the same month a meeting will be held for the purpose of electing officers and making arrangements for the working of the association. Captain Robinson, of the s.s. *Ying King*, has been appointed secretary and treasurer, and a temporary working committee has been elected. A considerable number of members have been enrolled already.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE WAR
JAPANESE DISASTER.

Kobe, 16th May, 9 p.m.

The Japanese *Miyoko* touched a mine near Talienwan on Saturday and sunk in twenty minutes. Casualties number eight.

[The *Miyoko* is a cruiser of 1,800 tons displacement, 315 feet long, 36 feet beam, 13 draught; i.h.p., 6,130. She was built at Kure in 1899, being completed in 1901. She had two 4.6in. guns, ten 1.8in. and two torpedo tubes. Her speed was 20 knots.—Ed. P.D.]

[JAPANESE CONSULAR TELEGRAM.]

FURTHER OPERATIONS.

Tokyo, 16th May, 5.20 p.m.

"Admiral Kataoka reports that on the 16th inst. our torpedo-boat flotilla continued sea sweeping operations under the cover of fleet. The enemy constructed a temporary battery on a promontory between Kori Bay and Talienwan and laid six field guns; besides hastily constructed a fort and sent one company and stubbornly resisted. Our flotilla defying enemy's fire carried the operation and destroyed five mines; unfortunately one mine exploded *Miyoko* which sunk; six wounded; besides two killed during fight."

REUTER'S SERVICE.

THE WAR.—RUSSIAN OPINION.

LONDON, 14th May.

The feeling is not decreasing that a successful battle is very necessary if complete order is to be preserved in the interior.

DISTURBANCES IN POLAND.

LONDON, 14th May.

The S. Petersburg correspondent of the *Standard* says there are persistent rumours of a serious disturbance in Warsaw, by which a high official was killed.

H.M.S. "HART" IN COLLISION.

Yesterday afternoon H.M.S. *Hart* was run into by a steam launch called the *Lai Wo* in the harbour. The bow of the launch struck the *Hart* amidships near the engine-room. The *Hart* sustained considerable damage, it is reported, but was able to regain anchorage. She is a torpedo-boat destroyer of 275 tons, with six guns and an i.h.p. of 4,000.

When the collision occurred, a Chinese woman fell off the launch and was drowned. The coxswain of the launch was arrested by the water police.

THE LOSS OF THE "VARYAG."

The following correspondence has passed between the Russian Consul at Hongkong and the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station with reference to the kindness shown to the officers and men of the Russian ship *Varyag* by those of the British Navy in conveying them from Chemulpo to Mirs Bay and Hongkong:—

No. 1.

To Admiral Sir C. Bridge.

Hongkong, 25th February, 1904.

Sir,—I take the liberty to express my heartfelt thanks to your Excellency and to the officers and men of the British Navy who have so kindly done all what was possible to render the voyage from Chemulpo to Mirs Bay and Hongkong so comfortable, and who have given proof of their kind and noble feelings in presenting their comrades of the Russian navy so liberally with wines, tobacco, and other presents.

The commander of the destroyer *Varyag* has requested me to express to your Excellency his great appreciation of all the kindness, which he and his officers and men will never forget.

I take the liberty to express to your Excellency whether it would be possible to express the gratitude of the Russian sailors in an *ordre du jour*.—I have, etc.,

C. DE BOLAYOWSKAY.

No. 2.

To M. de Bolayowskay.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1904.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and to avail myself of the opportunity of expressing to you my obligation for the sentiments contained in it. I wish to assure you that it gave real pleasure to the officers and ships' companies of the fleet under my orders to be able to render any little attention to brother seamen temporarily placed by the fortune of war in a position demanding sympathy.

I have gladly made known the contents of your letter to all his Britannic Majesty's ships present, and I will see that they are also made known to the *Talbot* and *Amphitrite*, which are absent.—I have, etc.,

CYPRIAN A. G. BRIDGE.

WAR NOTES.

TELEGRAMS TO SHANGHAI.

We take the following telegrams from the *N.C. Daily News*:—

Peking, 16th May.—The Russians evacuated Newchwang and Tashichiao on Saturday and Sunday last. There are no Russian troops at Newchwang city at the present moment."

Tokyo, 16th May.—The Imperial Ordinance regarding the loan has been gazetted. The leading Japanese journals welcome it as a financial coup, while regretting the hypotheticalation of the Customs as security. Parr's Bank, London, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., New York, each take half the loan."

Tokyo, 16th May.—The Koreans who fled from Pingyang and Anju at the commencement of the war have returned to their homes—Koreans in Russian pay in North Hamgyong province have cut off the Japanese military wires."

Tokyo, 16th May.—Three hundred Russians taken prisoners in the Yalu operations have arrived in Japan."

Peking, 11th May.—There is a rumour at Newchwang that the Japanese occupied Kaiping, a city on the Manchurian railway some 16 miles south of Tashichiao, on the 9th, and there is a widespread belief that they will arrive at Newchwang on the 13th. The Russians show great haste and confusion in their endeavours to escape from the seat of war; their troops are gathering at Newchuan station to escape before the Japanese arrive."

Tokyo, 11th May.—A second issue of exchange bonds to the amount of a hundred million yen (£10,000,000 sterling) will possibly be made at the end of the month. The Cabinet is to confer with the bankers and financiers to-night. The new foreign loan is intended to secure the convertible notes, and the whole proceeds will be kept in London."

Tokyo, 11th May.—Admiral Togo reports that explosions are being continually heard from Port Arthur, *appropos* of which it may be mentioned that it is privately understood that the Russians are destroying the remnants of their men-of-war."

RUSSIAN NEWS.

The following telegram from General Flong has been communicated to the Shanghai papers:—

"Mukden, 11th May.

"By the information received during the 10th inst. from mounted patrols and from scouts, a Japanese division, supposed to belong to the Guards, has left Fenghuangcheng in the direction of Haicheng (a town on the railway, between Tashichiao and Liangyang). One division of infantry, with 40 guns and 15,000 (15,000) cavalry, was to proceed from Fenghuangcheng towards Saimachi. Up to to-day, it is learnt that at Kuantienien there is an advanced guard consisting of one battalion of infantry, three companies of cavalry, and one mountain battery."

"By the reports of General Mischenko, the Japanese troops in his front were divided on the 7th inst. into two parties; the first situated at a day's march south-west of Fenghuangcheng, and the second on the lower part of the Yangyang river (which runs in a south-east direction and enters into the Bay of Corea at Takushan). On the same day the latter party began to cross the river."

"The Chinese population favours the Japanese. A Chinaman warned a Japanese patrol that the Russians were preparing an ambush for it."

"The train which left Vafandian (? Wafang-tien) reached Port Arthur safely, and the rolling-stock has already returned."

"Up to now we have received no exact information of the number of the enemy landed at Pitsewo. To the north of Cape Terminal, 30 Japanese transports were seen. The Bay of Szechai is still occupied by us, and we are reconnoitring thence. There is no change in other parts of the theatre of war."

A STRATEGIST'S VIEW.

Captain Mahan, the great American naval expert, reviewing the war in the *Times* of the 30th ult. regards Port Arthur and Newchwang as of the first importance to Japan, with the Yalu as the strategic centre. The Baltic fleet may menace Japan in the autumn, but the Japanese will probably be successful if the operations are discreetly restricted."

HARD TIMES IN MANCHURIA.

A private letter from Newchwang, dated the 3rd May, and quoted in the *N.C. Daily News*, has the following interesting postscript:—"All work is practically suspended in this province of Fengtien. Mr. F. of Moukden, wishing to escort his wife to Tientsin, applied for a military pass to the Russian authorities. Granted, but across the head of the document in bold letters 'Not for return.' He there and then elected to remain by his work and members, and sent Mrs. F. off under escort of two worthy members to Hsinmuntun. The streets of Newchwang are no longer lighted at night, lest the enemy should 'borrow our light.' Just as well for the natives, as kerosene is very dear. To-day paid 80 for a case. In Mukden it was selling a few days ago at 812. It has been declared contraband."

THE WAR AND THE WEATHER.

A *Times* Correspondent pointed out last month that unless a secure footing is gained by the Japanese north of the Yalu with a new base by July, land movements in Corea, which even under present conditions are most difficult, will become practically impossible. The rainfall is so heavy that all the bridges over the countless streams, being flimsy bamboo constructions, will be carried away. The Ching-cheng river, now spanned by a 200-yard pontoon, will become impassable. In August last year the rainfall in Northern Corea was 76 inches. This shows that it is not to the advantage of either belligerent to engage in a struggle in the vicinity of the Yalu. The Russians desire to get the Japanese forces inland in the hope of enveloping them, while the Japanese on their part desire to get inland because the country affords a more suitable theatre for operations. As time is short the new effort of the latter must be developed almost immediately."

THE DALLAS CO.

"KITTY GRAY" AT THE CITY HALL.
The Dallas Co. last evening played *Kitty Gray* at Theatre Royal, City Hall. There was a very good house; and the audience showed their entire appreciation by constant applause. A synopsis of the piece is as follows:—

Sir John and Lady Binfeld are staying at a hotel in Biarritz; and Lady Binfeld's sister Sadie is practically engaged to Lord Plantagenet. Lady Binfeld's great modesty, regarding such things as bathing-machines, etc., rather pulls on her husband. Sir John, therefore, schemes to leave Biarritz for London, under guise that he has been recalled by a telegram announcing Parliamentary trouble. The King of Illyria also happens to be in Biarritz, and he is an ardent admirer of Kitty Gray, a well-known actress. Matters are rather complicated for Sir John and Lord Plantagenet, too, have secret affection for beautiful Kitty. During the second act things become very amusing. Lady Binfeld is very distressed at her husband's indifference, and goes to Kitty, under the assumed name of Mrs. Roberts, for advice regarding the subject. At this period a gentleman is announced and Kitty persuades "Mrs. Roberts" to go behind a screen, watch her without being noticed, and learn the art of love-making. To Lady Binfeld's great astonishment she observes the lover to be none other than her husband. When released from her eavesdropping corner she puts on one of Kitty's dresses, determined to meet her husband thus disguised. Instead of Sir John, however, she encounters the King of Illyria, who straightaway makes love to her and, exacts a promise from her that she will sup with him at his palace on the occasion of a projected party. Kitty and her double then come face to face, quite a scene ensuing. Lady Binfeld explains that Jack is her husband, and Kitty surrenders him, though somewhat bitterly; she tells Sir John everything and bids him adieu. The wronged wife takes back her now repentant husband; the various characters pair off as they should, and a very pretty play terminates.

Miss Alice Wade was very taking as Kitty Gray, doing justice to a very difficult part. Mr. Percival Knight displayed his customary skill as Lord Plantagenet. Another leading part, that of Lady Binfeld, was tastefully acted by Miss Ernestine Walter. Mr. Frank Cochran, too, as Sir John Binfeld, was very good. Mr. Albert E. Rees, King of Illyria, was well placed, as also, was Miss Bortha Hunter as Sadie. The minor parts were executed with remarkable smoothness.

The full cast was as follows:—
The King of Illyria..... Mr. Albert E. Rees
Sir John Binfeld..... Mr. Frank Cochran
Lord Plantagenet..... Mr. Percival Knight
Comte de Trent..... Mr. Percy Haydn
Ponchelet Landlord of Hotel Biarritz..... Mr. W. B. Riley
Fritz..... Mr. Walter of Hotel..... Mr. W. B. Evans
James..... Mr. W. B. Evans
Carl..... Mr. W. B. Evans
Joseph..... Mr. W. B. Evans
Brown..... Mr. W. B. Evans
Sadie, Sister of Lady Binfeld..... Miss Bortha Hunter
Mrs. Bright..... Miss Ernestine Walter
Carmen..... Miss Ernestine Walter
Fanny..... Miss Ernestine Walter
Kitty Gray..... Miss Alice Wade

"PREPOSTEROUS"

Colonel Ogorodnikoff, of the Russian General Staff, Russian Military Agent in North-China, says the *N.C. Daily News*, thus kindly placed at our disposal the following:—

Tientsin, 3rd May.

It is necessary to contradict altogether the unfounded report which appeared in Renter's telegram of May 2nd from London via Bombay, about the news reaching Washington that a great battle had been fought on the Yalu, resulting in a complete victory for the Japanese.

As a matter of fact there was only an ordinary engagement of vanguards from our part, which, as on any such occasion, had the purpose of discovering the enemy's strength and the direction of their movements. After this had been successfully carried out our vanguard, having sustained very insignificant losses, drew away to another position, not engaging in any serious action.

On this very occasion the Japanese have done everything in their power to assist our vanguard to discover what was wanted.

On April 30th the Japanese deployed all their artillery (field guns as well as siege cannons) and were firing aimlessly from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. On the same day they crossed the Yalu river with a much stronger number than was necessary to attack our small detachment. The next morning the Japanese reopened the bombardment, preparing an attack. In the meantime our detachment ceased firing, as the enemy's strength was discovered in a much more appreciable way and degree than we possibly could have hoped for. Any further action was of course quite useless for us.

It is therefore quite evident that the Japanese had an absolutely wrong idea about the strength of our detachment and did not at all understand the object and sense of the action.

And after all that the Japanese had nothing better to do but to assure that the deploy of their artillery was not aimless at all and that they gained a complete victory.

As a matter of fact the false and fantastic reports and inventions of some of the newspapers are not worth any attention.

For instance: How could the Japanese capture 28 guns while we had only 8 in action? It is rather astonishing how the Japanese Government allows to publish such stories under the title of "Official News!"

Full particulars about the actions on April 30th and 1st of May have been published already according to our official reports.—Signed by Major-General Floug.

It is difficult to understand with what object this preposterous despatch, dated the 3rd instant was published as a cable message on the 10th.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th May.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A CHINESE BANK'S FAILURE.

The partners of the Po Fung bank came up for public examination in bankruptcy. Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, & Deacon, solicitors, appeared for Kwong Kam Nam, one of the partners. Various creditors were represented by Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor; Mr. S. W. Tse, solicitor; Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, solicitors; and Mr. F. Paget Hett, of Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton's office.

Kwong Kam Nam, partner in the firm, examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd), said there was one other partner in the business, which was started in September or October, 1901. Before that he was in California. He put \$38,000 in cash into the business.

Mr. Hastings at this stage objected to the presence of the debtor's partner in the Court during his examination. It was alleged on behalf of the creditors that these two men were fraudulently concealing from the Court that they had other partners, rich men, fully capable of paying the debts of the firm. One of them had made statements in writing as to these partners, which statements they had got in their hands. Yet now the debtors claimed that they had no partners. He thought it was important that the two debtors should be examined separately.

The Official Receiver did not think there was any objection to the presence of the other debtor during the examination of his partner. They were co-debtors.

His Lordship held that it was not necessary that the partner should be out of Court.

Examination continued.—His partner Chung Kai Yu put \$5,000 into the business. No other people put any capital in. They carried on business as Chinese bankers, advancing money on promissory notes and scrip shares. When the receiving order was made they had advanced in this manner \$140,000 (odd) principal. They owed people nearly \$120,000. When their friends deposited money with them they were paid simple interest at market rates. The rate of interest was about one per cent. a month. Now it was not so much—about six-tenths per cent. He did nothing in the business but keep the keys. The taking in and paying out of money was done by apprentices. He never took any money out of the safe on his own account. His partner owed the bank \$4,800 and had also advanced to him \$55,000 as partner of the Yee Chang firm. When he was in California he kept a pawnshop. He found out that the bank was insolvent in March of this year. There was a run on the bank. At that time their liabilities amounted to nearly \$120,000 and assets to about \$140,000 in promissory notes, etc. If all the bank's creditors had paid, the bank would have had more than sufficient to meet their liabilities. His partner drew out from the bank for another business of his at Kong-moon a further sum of \$15,000, making in all \$69,000 that he drew out. When Chung Kai Yu took that money out he said he was in a position to pay it back. He was to pay interest on it. When the run on the bank commenced they borrowed money to stave off the demands upon them. He did not know how much they borrowed. He was not aware that the books of the firm showed that they received \$99,000 between 1st February and 9th March. He did not know how that money was spent.

Chung Kai Yu, the other partner in the bank, deposed that he had been a banker for nine years. He joined the Po Fung bank about three years ago. The \$5,000 he put into the business was his own money and was paid in cash.

By his Lordship.—No one except Kwong Kam Nam and himself had any interest in the Po Fung bank at present. He did not know about partners; Kwong Kam Nam would know about that. In Chinese firms there were big and little shares. He and Kwong Kam Nam held the big shares. When the business was floated Kwong Kam Nam told him the names of some small shareholders.—Kwong Yuet Hong, Kwong Yick Nam, Lai Yu Fong, Ma Fo Tsai, and Ho Yat Hing. These names did not appear in the partnership book.

The examination was afterwards adjourned.

POLICE COURT.

Monday, 16th May.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ. (ACTING POLICE MAGISTRATE).

ASSAULT ON THE "HIN SANG."

Two Chinese firemen of the Indo-China S.S. *Hin Sang* were charged with assaulting the third engineer. One of them struck complainant with a heavy spanner, and the other used an iron rod.

The first was fined \$40 with an alternative of six weeks' imprisonment, and the other was fined \$20 or one month.

The case was to have been heard by the Harbour Master, but he said that it was too severe for him to deal with.

IN FORBIDDEN WATERS.

Twenty-seven boatmen were fined \$5 each for anchoring their craft too near the shore between sunset and sunrise.

THEFTS FROM TAIKOO SHIPYARD.

For stealing wood from the Taikoo Shipyards a Chinaman was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment; for taking stone away from the same place another was given 15 days and six hours' stocks.

BEFORE MR. J. H. KEMP (SECOND POLICE MAGISTRATE).

A SHOOTING CASE.

An Indian, Kala Singh by name, was charged with maliciously wounding an apprentice painter at the Cosmopolitan Dock, by shooting him with a revolver.

Defendant pleaded guilty to wantonly discharging the revolver, but he said there was no malice.

It appears that the Indian had loaded the revolver, going some time later to get his pay. When he returned the Chinese apprentice said, "How do you fire it?" "Like this," answered the other, and a bullet cut the apprentice's eyelid. The injury received was not very serious. A wonderfully narrow escape!

The apprentice agreed that there was no malice, the charge being altered accordingly.

The case was adjourned to know how long it would take complainant's wound to heal. It was, apparently, a matter for compensation.

MRS. ETHEL KIT.

Mrs. Ethel Kit, an Australian woman deserted by her Chinese husband, came before the magistrate to-day—destitute. She received \$21 from the poor-box.

"NO THOROUGHFARE."

A Chinaman was charged with causing an obstruction, with merchandise, in a private lane at Nos. 15 and 18, Wing Kit and Wing Wo Streets.

Mr. Holborough, solicitor, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon, appeared for the defence. Case was adjourned to give solicitor time for quoting on the matter.

ILLEGAL OPIUM.

Fines for illicit opium, seven or eight cases, amounted to a total of some \$100.

S. PETERSBURG OPINION.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

The discontent felt at the outbreak of hostilities has already subsided and given way to a calm, reflective mood. Although the over-due reports of Russian successes have not yet arrived, the public are not nervous. Among Russian politicians a great amount of disappointment is expressed, but their dissatisfaction is connected not with the war so much as with certain diplomatic features of the situation. In the first place, the successful advance of the English Commission in Tibet is considered a great grievance by these "Pan-Russian" circles. It is true they have no definite idea what the English demands from Tibet will be; but this they know for certain, that the result will be a battering of England's position in Central Asia and thereby a deterioration of Russian interests. In their opinion it is a very unkind act of England to take advantage of the Russian-Japanese complications for taking a step that Russia herself had planned for the first available opportunity. This high-pitched sensitiveness on Russia's part is not quite justifiable, as England is only following the example of Russia, who a few years ago did not hesitate to take full advantage of England's embarrassment in South Africa to further her own ends in East-Asian politics. It goes without saying that the discontented Russian politicians do not now remember what was done such a short time ago with their approval.

SHIPPING NOTES.

WEATHER.

Moderate to fresh N. E. wind and high sea prevails between Hongkong and Manila. The same is reported by arrivals from Shanghai and Singapore as having been experienced during the latter part of the voyage.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Petrarch*, from Newchwang and Chefoo yesterday, has general cargo for Messrs. Sander, Weiler & Co.

The *Indrapura*, from Portland yesterday, has upwards of 3,000 tons of cargo on board.

The Norwegian steamer *Tolo*, from Bangkok yesterday, brought a full cargo of rice for Messrs. Hong Lee & Co.

The *Kwanglee* (China Merchants) arrived from Shanghai yesterday. She had 600 tons of cargo for Hongkong, 700 for Canton.

The *Korea* arrived from San Francisco yesterday. As she had less than 1,100 tons of cargo on board she was very light.

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The P. & O. steamer *Coromandel* left Singapore for this port on the 14th inst., at 6 p.m., with the outward English mails, and is due here on the 19th inst., at about noon.

The O. & O. steamer *Grete*, with mails, &c., from San Francisco to the 28th ult., via Honolulu, leaves Yokohama for this port via Honolulu Sea, &c., on the 17th inst.

The O. & O. steamer *Mongolia*, with mails, &c., left San Francisco for this port via Honolulu, &c., on the 7th inst.

The O. & O. steamer *Doric*, with mails, &c., which left hence April 14th for San Francisco via Shanghai, &c., arrived at her destination on the 12th inst.

The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of China* arrived at Yokohama at 5.30 a.m. on Monday, the 16th inst., and left again at 4 p.m. same day for Kobe, where she is due to arrive at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 17th inst.

The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of Japan* arrived at Shanghai at 10 p.m. on Friday, the 13th inst., and left again at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday for Nagasaki, where she was due to arrive at 7 a.m. on Monday, the 16th inst.

The Imperial German mail steamer *Bayern* left Kobe via Nagasaki and Shanghai on the 16th inst., and may be expected here on the 24th inst.

The Imperial German mail steamer *Sachsen*, which left here on the 12th inst., arrived at Shanghai on Sunday at 10 a.m.

The steamer *Lightning*, from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port on the 12th inst., p.m.

A Johannesburg telegram announces the discovery of a fabulously rich diamond field in Hope Valley, Orange River Colony. The gems found include rubies, sapphires, emeralds, beryls, topazes, amethysts, turquoise, carnelians, and small diamonds. Hundreds of pounds worth of gems were washed from twenty cartloads of gravel, and it is declared that there are millions of tons of similar wash in sight.

ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT.

CONTINENTAL OPINIONS.

A review on this subject is interesting. The following summary of the new Agreement shows at a glance the various points established by Great Britain and France respectively with regard to the future of the colonies and countries under consideration:—

EGYPT.

Regarding Egypt there is no political change. Great Public Works remain in the hands of the State.

Great Britain. French Schools continue. Surplus of the Public Debt to be lent the Disposal of the Egyptian Government. Simplification of the Finances.

France. French Schools continue. Department of Antiquities to continue under a Frenchman. Suez Canal remains Neutral. 30 years' Freedom of Trade.

NEWFOUNDLAND, ETC. France abandons her special fishing Rights on the French Shore.

INDONESIA. Owners and Employees of French Fishing Establishments. Territorial Acquisitions.

(1) Port on the River Gun, his accessible to Ocean-going ships.
(2) The Los Islands opposite Komary.
(3) Reajusment of the Northern Niger frontier line giving France a strip of territory.

MADAGASCAR. Britain withdraws various recent protests against France's economic regime.

MOROCCO. 30 years' Freedom of French supervision where necessary.

No fortifications on the Mediterranean shore between Melilla and the River Sebou.

There is no political change.

SIAM. Declaration of 1896 confirmed and explained.

NEW HEBRIDES. New Commission to decide Land Disputes.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS. Never in our recollection has Great Britain given away so much for nothing.—*Morning Post.*

The Agreement is, a Paris journal tells us, a triumph for French diplomacy, and that characterisation of it was disposed to endorse.—*Observer.*

It seems to us that France receives more than she gives.—*Petite République (Paris).*

The Convention offers satisfactory conditions which are advantageous to both countries.—*Figaro.*

It seems to us that the advantages conceded to us, while they flatter our pride, are more apparent than real.—*Gazette.*

It should be pointed out that Great Britain only consents to a "benevolent disinterestedness" in Morocco.—*Republique Francaise.*

We recognise England's preponderance in Egypt by a pacific act, after having ratified it for twenty years by our military inaction.—*Temps.*

A closer examination shows that certain vexed questions have been left unsettled by the negotiators. The section dealing with the new Hebrides contents itself with enjoining the working of the mixed Anglo-French jurisdiction.—*Politique Coloniale.*

At a time when England is entering Tibet she is effecting a rapprochement with France. Russian bitterness is therefore intelligible.—*Yassische Zeitung (Berlin).*

Germany once more unfortunately plays the part of spectator. France has won a great victory, of which the other Powers may well be envious.—*Taegliche Rundschau (Berlin).*

Germany receives nothing and does not even make the slightest protest against the partition of the Mediterranean shore by England, France, and Italy.—*Berlin r. Neueste Nachrichten.*

The Agreement is to be welcomed in the interests of peace.—*Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (Berlin).*

It can only be to Germany's advantage if France finances Morocco and restores order in that country.—*National Zeitung (Berlin).*

Two ancient rivals have been reconciled.—*Giornale d'Italia.*

Italy cannot but rejoice at this understanding, which sets the coping-stone on the Anglo-French entente.—*Tribuna (Rome).*

Lord Lansdowne and M. Delcasse have been able to substitute sincere friendship for a state of suspicion and ill-will.—*Italie (Rome).*

Spain (the Prime Minister), occupied with the conquest of Barcelona, has been unable to notice that Spain was evacuating Morocco.—*Correspondencia (Madrid).*

Dissatisfaction against allied France is felt strongly in Russia. The Anglo-French Agreement about Morocco, Siam, etc., has awakened the feeling in Russia, as if France had allowed herself to be enticed into treason towards Russia (this expression "enticed" is used by the influential *Nisice Voenya*). This treaty is, after all, more favourable for France than for England, and as the growing preponderance of France in the South-Western basin of the Mediterranean need be in no way disagreeable for Russia, such a strong resentment as to the Anglo-French Agreement is superfluous. If irritation really exists, it shows two things plainly:—firstly, that those who are against England would gladly see her at war with every country; secondly a fanciful mistrust against *la belle France*, with whom one would connect an inclination to adultery in politics as in the world of fiction. Regarding the Balkan Question, France, it is well known, did not always pull together with Russia. She has, too, been very reserved in the case of the recent Russian difficulties, and when one takes into consideration as well the growing intimacy with England, who is considered as a natural

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enemy throughout the length and breadth of Russia, we can quite understand the heartburnings of Russia. We must trace them back not so much to political as to physiological influences.—*Standard.*

SIAM.

With reference to Siam, the only part of the Far East affected by the Agreement, it will be remembered that, by an Agreement arrived at in 1896, France and Great Britain undertook to refrain from any armed intervention, or the acquisition of special privileges, in the Siamese possessions which were included within the basin of the Monam River. The restriction of the undertaking thus given did not imply any doubts as to the validity of the Siamese title to those portions of her possessions which lay outside the Monam Valley. The Agreement of 1896 has none the less been regarded as implying that the relations of the two Powers to Siam and to one another in respect to the regions lying to the east and to the west of the guaranteed area differed from their relations to her and to one another in respect of the central portion of the kingdom. In point of fact, British influence has for some time past prevailed in the western, and French influence in the eastern, portions of the Siamese dominions. The Agreements which have been entered into with Siam by his Majesty's Government as to the Malay Peninsula, and by the French Government as to the Mekong Valley, show that the two Powers have each on its side considered themselves at liberty to acquire a preponderating influence in these parts of the Siamese Empire. The exercise of such influence is compatible with the absence of all idea of annexing Siamese territory, and in order that this may be made abundantly clear, both parties to the Convention have placed it on record that neither of them desire to take for themselves any portion of the possessions of the King of Siam, and that they are determined to maintain the obligations which they have incurred under existing treaties. These treaties entitle Great Britain to most-favoured-nation treatment in all parts of the Siamese dominions.

THE TIBET MISSION.

THE FIGHTING AT GURU.

The Secretary of State for India received the following telegram from the Viceroy, dated Simla, April 13:—

Younghusband has sent a full report of incident at Guru, of which the following are the principal points. Younghusband met Lhasa general 1,000 yards from spot where sangars had been erected by Tibetans, and in conference with him told him that we did not want to fight and would not do so provided that no opposition were offered, but that Tibetan soldiers must be removed from position, or our troops would have to clear a way. Reply of Lhasa general consisted of familiar appeals that we should withdraw to Yutung. When the conference had proved abortive, Younghusband asked Macdonald to advance troops, but to order them not to fire unless fired at by Tibetans. The troops advanced with perfect discipline, not a shot being fired, though they expected a heavy fire from the sangars at any moment. Great hesitation was shown by Tibetans, but being eventually outflanked, they left the sangars. A party occupying post on plain were an exception, being made to return by Lhasa general, and they declined to leave wall built across road, although surrounded. Younghusband decided, with the concurrence of Macdonald, that the only resource was to disarm them and let them go, and Captain O'Connor, who speaks Tibetan and was on friendly terms with the general, was accordingly sent to inform him that the men would be disarmed. The general received this sullenly and at first took no action, but when, after a short time, the process of disarming began, he rushed at a ewoy and, drawing his revolver, shot him in the jaw. The Tibetans immediately fired other shots, and a rush was made by their swordsmen; it was not until this moment that the British troops commenced firing.

Younghusband adds that he deeply regretted the occurrence, to avoid which he had laboured incessantly. The stubborn hostility of the leaders from Lhasa and the ignorance of the Tibetans themselves were entirely responsible for the occurrence. The Tibetans were treated with the utmost consideration, as soon as the firing was over; the wounded were collected and cared for, and the prisoners were released; our entire medical staff was sent out to attend the wounded.

We join Younghusband in deploring what has occurred, for we had exhausted every diplomatic effort and delayed for months in our desire to avoid it. But we exonerate our troops from all blame, and we consider that exemplary patience and fortitude have been displayed by them in circumstances of unequalled rigour and difficulty, where, with temperature below zero, and at an elevation at which no fighting has ever before taken place, they have had to be on the watch night and day against assault. Further, the advance without firing a shot right up to position held by 200 armed Tibetans involved risk of military disaster to British force, which they were willing to incur owing to their supreme desire to avoid bloodshed, though they would certainly have been blamed for it. Force arrived at Gyantse two days ago, and in its opposed advance are seen effects Guru incident.

"USELESS GUN SIGHTS."

Mr. Arnold White writes to complain that the Secretary to the Admiralty has inadvertently misled the House of Commons with respect to the *Centurion's* gun-sights. On February Captain Prelman stated, in reply to a question that "All the *Centurion's* guns have correct sights. The original sights are still fitted to the guns, and are quite accurate."

As to this Mr. Arnold White says:— "I have reason to know that, when the *Centurion* joined the China Squadron, she had no on board a serviceable sight of any description and that the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Cyprian Bridge, G.C.B., informed the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he did not consider the *Centurion* fit to go into action."

Mr. White adds that "A general alteration of the gun-sights of the ships on the China Station took place in 1901, although on July 7, 1903, the Secretary to the Admiralty states that no report had been received as to whether the gun-sights of every ship in the China Squadron had been altered by the armourers and artificers of the respective vessels. The *Leviathan*, the latest addition to the squadron on March 10, 1904, was busy altering her gun sights, the Commander-in-Chief having pointed out officially that her recent bad firing was due to her having used the sights supplied by the Admiralty."

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PARIS LETTER.

Paris, 15th April.

Whatever their faults may be, one cannot refrain from expressing profound pity for the Russians in their successive misfortunes. The latest disaster which has befallen their fleet, and caused the death of nearly 700 gallant sailors and soldiers, including Admiral Makaroff—not only a brilliant officer, but a man of science, an inventor and a mechanical genius, respected and admired by the whole world—is indeed the greatest blow that Russia has yet experienced in the war. That so many have been the victims of a catastrophe without parallel in modern warfare cannot do otherwise than move the civilized world to a sense of pity. Whether the unfortunate *Petrovsk* was torpedoed by the enemy, or struck suddenly upon a floating mine, the existence of which is as perilous to friend as it is to foe, there is no question as to the suddenness and completeness of the terrible blow. The French naval authorities maintain that it is difficult to exaggerate the extent of the calamity; there is no doubt that the late Admiral's presence at Port Arthur wrought wonders; he restored the shaken morale of the Russian fleet, besides infusing vigilance and energy into all departments of the garrison. In other words, unable to make good the damage caused in the first few days of the war, he nevertheless transmitted to his own heroic character into the spirit of his subordinates. The Russian could do no more. Considering that the Russians have but a small reserve of experienced officers in the higher ranks, the loss of Admiral Makaroff is all the more regrettable. Unless some unexpected genius turns up, it is quite possible that we may have heard the last of the Russian navy for a long time to come—so think many people here. Well may it be said that the disappearance of such a fine ship as the *Petrovsk* has created a gap impossible to fill up. Meanwhile the victorious Japanese whose successful did their work up to the present, including the torpedoing of Admiral Makaroff's ship, have not been able to take the fullest advantage of the disaster for everything is fair in war. The splendid opportunities which fortune has placed in the hands of Admiral Togo will not be wasted; the fact that the Japanese fleet has been reinforced, and that attacks on Port Arthur have been renewed with fiercer determination than ever, are significant, and go a long way towards disclosing, or at least conveying an idea of Japan's naval and military plans of campaign. The defenders of Port Arthur must be beginning to think that it is next to useless holding out; the dismay caused by the death of Admiral Makaroff will tell on them very shortly. As most immediate effect may be to reduce the defenders to the same state of impotence in which they were at the beginning of February last. It is a great mistake to think that the plucky Japanese have any intention of resting on their laurels—they really cannot afford to do so. The armies of the two combatants have not yet been pitted against one another to an extent which permits one to guess what their relative fighting qualities are. Admiral Togo is too shrewd a man not to know that the successful conduct of the campaign by land depends upon the entire Russian fleet in Pacific waters—the Vladivostok as well as the Port Arthur squadron—being either destroyed, captured, or "bottled." The Japanese Admiral cannot well expect to derive complete benefit from that command of the sea on which the strategic success of the war relies until then. The best thing that the Baltic squadron and its several new ships can do is to remain where they are, if they do not wish to be sent to the bottom, or meet with some other peril. There is no doubt that Russia's inability to hold the sea must have a decisive effect upon the impending land operations. One thing is certain, that there will be no driving the troops of the Mikado out of Korea. The Russians know very little about their enemy, the latter is much too wise to be lured inland away from its base. The command of the sea is all that Japan aims at; that alone breath more to her than a dozen victories in the field.

La Baillonnée, by Pierre Decourcelle and Paul Ronget, is as successful a play as any which these two popular playwrights have brought out before, including *Les Deux Gosses*, equally sad in every respect. The Ambigu Theatre, where the *Baillonnée* is given, has long become a famous play-house; there being no scene of murder, poison, stabbing, or shooting about the new piece in question, it is unfair to call *La Baillonnée* a blood-curdling drama. Pauline de Revel—the heroine—is a young widow left with two young children, a girl and a boy. Her husband's father, the Comte de Revel, who never approved of his son's marriage, positively hates her, and believes all that people tell him about his daughter-in-law. Pauline has a brother to whom she is very much attached, and as he is dying, she goes and visits him oftener than she did. These visits are purposely misinterpreted by her enemies, so much so, that Pauline is directly accused of having a lover. On the death of her brother—who suffered imprisonment for a crime he had not committed—his only child, a beautiful little boy—is adopted by his aunt. One evening on returning home, she is grief-stricken to find that the Comte de Revel has taken possession of her own two children, Christian and Isabelle, in order to revenge himself. This fresh misfortune she bears as best she can; after a few months Pauline gives birth to another child—a girl. The latter, when fifteen years of age, becomes her mother's greatest comfort and help; being very intelligent, her mother opens a milliner's shop, and carries on business in company with her daughter. They both struggle bravely and are warmly supported by sympathising friends who know their sad history. One morning as they are about to open their shop, the postman brings them a letter; the writer is no other than the Comte de Revel, who informs her of all the wrong he has done, and informs her of his intention to restore to her her two children. Baron de Laverny, the traitor, confesses before her that what he had said about Pauline and her brother were falsehoods, and asks the Comte's pardon. All's well that ends well. Pauline's name is at last cleared of slander, Isabelle gets married, and everyone becomes the best of friends.

A school-teacher containing a pair of tiny ear-rings, and a letter addressed to the local Commissaire du Plessis was picked up a few days ago by a passer at the foot of a tree in the Boulevard St. Maurice, near Vincennes. On opening the letter, the chief police inspector became my mother did nothing else but beat me. I have thrown myself into the water because she did not love me. In any case I have lived long enough, twelve years and a half. Adieu. Perhaps on learning of my death my mother, who lives not far away, may come and identify me at the mortuary." This was the content of the strange communication. Though the letter bore no signature, the writer's name and spelling were evidently those of a child. On calling at 39, Rue de Paris, Vincennes, the address given by the little girl, the Commissaire de Police found a woman in despair at the loss of her little girl. The mother stated she had not seen her daughter since the previous day. After spending a night in vain search, the frantic mother had gone to school, where Juliette was last seen. On arriving she was told that her daughter had probably committed

suicide. Some of Juliette's comrades were questioned, and they quickly disclosed all they knew about the mystery. Juliette had gathered half a dozen of her fellow pupils round her, to whom she declared she had had enough of life, and that she intended putting an end to her existence. With their assistance, she drew up the letter already alluded to; that done, she handed over her books to her comrades, and bid them good-bye. Since then nothing has been heard of Juliette. But the child really committed suicide, was she kidnapped, or is the whole affair a hoax? Though the lakes in the Bois de Vincennes and the canals in the neighbourhood have been dragged, nothing so far has been found. The strange affair has created a great sensation.

The Anglo-French Agreement—the chief topic of conversation with all classes of Parisians—is beyond any doubt a veritable epoch-making document. Everyone is delighted with the official text of the publication, which is nothing more or less than a victory of peace. For century after century England and France have been at next-door neighbours, and for the most part have agreed about as badly as next-door neighbours habitually do. The wars between the two nations have been perpetual up to the battle of Waterloo. Since then peace has been frequently threatened, but somehow or other the storm has always passed over without breaking—even the serious crisis of Fashoda did not end in a rupture. Thanks to the sagacity of King Edward—the best of British diplomats—and to that of President Loubet, another worthy gentleman, England and France have at last become fast friends, and agreed that between two such Powers would be considered not only senseless, but criminal in the extreme. In due course of time certain concessions in Central Africa, France abandons those claims to exclusive rights of fishery in Newfoundland which may well be said to have been so fruitful a cause of dangerous irritation in the past. The settlement arrived at between M. Delcassé and Lord Lansdowne has been equally as satisfactory in Morocco, where France obtains recognition of her legitimate influence in return for her own admission of Britain's claim to a practical protectorate over Egypt. There is no reason why France and England in future should not live in honorable peace and mutually profitable friendship. Germany and Spain—the former in particular—are naturally displeased at such a treaty—but such displeasure is disregarded. The work of M. Delcassé and Lord Lansdowne is all the more enhanced by the fact that it was not necessary to call in the services of an arbitrator, nor appeal to the good offices of the Hague Tribunal. Mutual good feeling on both sides, and a desire to be friends, was sufficient. Commercial France is sincerely grateful for what has been done to promote the good understanding of the two neighbouring countries.

Very few persons that praised Colonel Marchand during the Fashoda "climb-down" entertained the thought that he would one day become a refugee. No wonder that the Colonel is actually so angry and refuses to trust anybody. The long letter which the "hero" of Fashoda has written to the *Patrie* has come in for a large share of public criticism. Therein he denies that his resignation from the Army now definitely accomplished has anything to do with the breaking off of his intended marriage with Madame Heriot, widow of one of the well-known proprietors of the *Louvre* stores. The Colonel declares that he has absolutely no person in close touch with him. He is a recluse in consequence of the suspicion with which he is surrounded. The Colonel, while feeling sore, is not surprised at the most worthy acts of his hard and painful life are not considered in a manner diametrically opposed to the truth. Being gallant and chivalrous, he begs his numerous enemies to spare Madame Heriot, not to couple that lady's name with any charges they bring against him. The Colonel winds up his letter by saying that he would only bring persecution on all those whom he approached. The methods employed against him, he affirms, are those of blackguards, and he dishonours all those who have resort to them. Strong but expressive language. Previous to his resignation the War Office, it is stated, intended to make him a general. The Colonel's career is not considered by his intimate friends as over by any means; being a man of tremendous will power and indomitable energy are in his favour. Colonel Marchand is anxious to go to the Far East; after returning in a few years, he may once more become the idol of his countrymen. One never knows.

Emile Carre is one of those infatuated Frenchmen who has had to pay dear for his foolishness, as regards public exposure. Though the father of several children, and an employee of the Chemin de Fer de l'Ouest Company, receiving a salary of nearly 10,000 francs a year, he was unable to resist a bewitching cross-riding, with whom he had the serious misfortune to become connected. The lady, who was a Roumanian of wondrous beauty, had very expensive tastes. Emile was equal to the occasion; rather than refuse her anything she asked, he helped himself pretty freely to the Railway Company's money. His books showed defalcations to the extent of 15,000 francs, which sum was expended on buying an Arab steed, jewelry, dresses, &c., for Mlle. Germaine—the object of his infatuation. No one was more surprised than the infatuated Emile, when the police called at his place of residence to arrest him. The lady, who also received a similar visit, protested that she had never received so much from her admirer, though being kept well supplied with money. Further, she did not know he was married, nor that he had stolen the money. She was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment, and Emile to two years, but as his past was irreproachable, he benefited by the First Offenders' Act. That was more than the beautiful Roumanian got—the jury being merciless on her.

Gruesome as the spectacle is, the Morgue never fails to be visited by tourists when in Paris. So numerous were the latter during the Easter holidays, that the sinister low-roofed building had every appearance of a railway booking-office. Everyone is free to enter, the doors of the Mortuary being open all day long; photographs of those who have never been reclaimed as well as the several bodies reclining peacefully on the slabs in presence of everybody are "sights" which are never missed by English and American visitors of both sexes. A great deal more can be seen by paying in this unattractive institution. The

engine-house, for instance, contains two gas engines of 12 h.p. each, partly covered with a thick coating of ice; these engines, it may not be generally known, are connected with a refrigerating apparatus, while a thermometer alongside the pipes registers the normal temperature of 18 degrees below zero. Next to the engine-room, is another 20 feet square, one side of which is filled with what at first seems but ordinary iron safes packed one upon the other, side by side up to the ceiling. Each safe, which measures 3 ft. by 6 ft., is lined with a coil of tubing; inside is a box containing a corpse covered over with some coarse material. The bodies in the boxes are of course frozen as hard as a stone; visitors are handed a hammer to satisfy themselves on this point. This is the room which tries one's nerves the most; nothing seems so difficult as to overcome the creepy sensation, which forces itself upon every person bold enough to pass through this part of the grim chamber-house. To the medical profession, the interior of the Morgue is most interesting, as there is a great deal to be learned, more so than the general public ever suspects.

No one has perhaps attained such notoriety in the world of show-folks who travel round Paris as La Goulue. This "Animal Queen," as her admirers call her, has just been the recipient of several letters and telegrams congratulating her on her successful law-suit. One evening in December last—as she was performing with her menagerie on the outer Boulevard, she was summoned by the police for keeping open after midnight—her excuse being that the house was an excellent theatre. In due course "La Goulue" was tried, condemned, and sentenced to twenty-four hours imprisonment. Instead of surrendering to her judges, the valiant lioness lodged an appeal; on the case coming up a second time for hearing, the judge decreed that the offence was covered by the recent amnesty law. As everybody knows, La Goulue—the idol of the Moulin Rouge—is a lady with a past—a lively and momentous past in the bargain. Her husband Jose nearly got killed a little while ago by a panther: he owed his life to the courage of La Goulue who fearlessly entered the cage with a pitch-fork and attacked the savage brute. As the animal would not loosen Jose's throat, she called for a knife and a revolver and dispatched the panther; she was only scratched on the wrist. La Goulue invested all her fortune—nearly £2,000—in the menagerie, which she declares is a ruinous business, as compared to dancing at the Red Mile.

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Waihaiwei 1898; Convention, Commercial, Shanghai, 1902.

France—Tientsin, 1858; Convention, 1860; Tientsin, 1885; Conventions, 1886, 1887, and 1895; Frontier Trade Regulations.

United States—Tientsin, 1858; Additional 1888; Peking, 1889; Immigration, 1894; Commercial, 1903.

Germany—Tientsin, 1861; Peking, 1886; Kiangnan Convention, 1895; Railway and Mining Concession, 1898.

Japan—Shimonoseki, 1895; Liaotung Convention, 1895; Commercial, 1896; New Ports, 1896; Supplementary Commercial 1903.

Russia—St. Petersburg, 1881; Russian Land Trade, 1881; Port Arthur and Talienwan Agreement, 1888.

Portugal, 1888.

FINAL PROTOCOL made between China and Eleven Powers, 1901.

TREATIES WITH JAPAN

Great Britain, 1894; Duties Convention 1895; Russia Agreements as to Corea; United States Extradition Treaty, 1896; Great Britain (Alicante) 1892.

TREATIES WITH COREA

Japan, 1876; Japan Supplementary, 1873; United States, 1882; Great Britain, 1893; Trade Regulations.

TREATIES WITH SIAM

Great Britain, 1896; France, 1893; Japan, 1893; Russia, 1899.

Great Britain and France, Siam Frontier, 1899.

Great Britain and Russia, Railway Convention, 1899.

Great Britain and Siam, 1899.

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FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
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LONDON and ANTWERP	"DEUCALION"	On 7th June.
LONDON and ANTWERP	"AGAMEMNON"	On 21st June.

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* Taking Cargo for Liverpool at London Rates.
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AGENTS. [10-11]

Hongkong, 5th May, 1904.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO. LIMITED.

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CEBU and ILOILO	"SINGAN"	On 17th May.
NINGPO and SHANGHAI	"TIENSIN"	On 18th May.
SHANGHAI	"KAIFONG"	On 18th May.
MANILA	"KANSU"	On 18th May.
SWATOW, CHEFOO and TIENSIN		
THURSDAY ISLAND, COOK TOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MEL- BOURNE	"CHANGSHA"	On 2nd June.

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AUSTRALIAN PORTS.
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BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS. [12]

Hongkong, 17th May, 1904.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUST-
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THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR
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The Steamship

"CHUSAN"
Captain W. B. Palmer, P.M.S. carrying His
Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this
for Bombay, etc., on SATURDAY, the 21st
MAY, at Noon, taking passengers and
cargo for the above ports.

Silk and Valuable, all cargo for France, and
Tea for London (under arrangement) will be
transhipped at Colombo into a steamer proceed-
ing direct to Marseilles and London; other
cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via
Bombay.

Parcels will be received at this Office until
4 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and
value of all packages are required.
Shippers are particularly requested to note
the terms and conditions of the Company's
Bills of Lading.

For further particulars, apply to
E. A. HEWETT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1904.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL.

(WITH LIBERTY TO CALL AT PHILIPPINE
PORTS).

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG,
1904.

"SATSUMA"	3rd June.
"RICHMOND CASTLE"	15th June.
"ST. FILLANS"	30th June.
"LOWTHER CASTLE"	31st July.

For Freight and further information, apply to
DODWELL & CO., LD.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1904.

AMERICAN ASIATIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR NEW YORK VIA SUEZ CANAL.
The Steamship

"RAS ISSA,"
will be despatched from the above port on
THURSDAY, the 26th May.

For Freight, apply to
SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 26th April, 1904.

NATAL LINE OF STEAMERS.

THE Undersigned GENERAL AGENTS
in China and Japan for the above Line
are prepared to issue "THROUGH BILLS
OF LADING" for all the principal ports in
South America in connection with INDO-
CHINA STRAITS NAVIGATION Co.'s fortnightly
service home to CALCUTTA. Sailings from
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For Freight and further particulars,
apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,
General Agents for China and Japan,
Hongkong, 4th August, 1897.

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

FROM HAMBURG, ANTWERP, PENANG,
AND SINGAPORE.

THE Chartered H.A.L. Steamship

"THEODOR WILLE"
Captain Kritzfeldt, having arrived from the
above ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
requested to send in their Bills of Lading for
counter-signature by the Undersigned, and to
take immediate delivery of their Goods from
alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before Noon,
To-day, the 11th inst.

Any Cargo impeding the discharge will be
landed into the Godowns of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited,
and stored at Consignees' risk and
expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 18th inst., will be subject
to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 18th inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.
HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE,
Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 11th May, 1904. [1234]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.
IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"SACHSEN"
OF THE NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods, with the exception
of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being
landed and stored at their risk into the Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and
Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence
delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before 11 A.M.,
To-day, the 12th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 18th inst., will be
subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at
9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 23rd
inst., or they will not be recognised.
No Fire Insurance will be effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
Undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.
MELCHERS & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 12th May, 1904. [5]

"NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES."

THE Steamship

"SILVERLIP"
having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby
informed that their Goods are being landed and
stored at their risk, into the Godowns of the
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Co., Limited, whence delivery may be obtained.
Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless
notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M.,
To-day, the 14th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after the 21st May, will be subject
to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are
to be left in the Godowns, where they will be
examined on Saturday, the 21st May, at 2.30 P.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 24th May,
or they will not be recognised.
No Fire Insurance has been effected.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the
Undersigned.

ARNHOLD KARBURG & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1904. [1255]

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Hongkong, 1st July, 1902

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Manager.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1904.

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Hongkong, 12th December, 1903.

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